

Minutes of the meeting of the PCC of Milborne Port held on Saturday 18th January 2025 in Church House

The meeting commenced with a service in Church and a prayer in Church House from Rev. Rona.

Those present: Rev. Rona Stuart-Bourne (RSB), Nicki Edwards (NE), Harold Clarke (HC), David Johnson (DJ), Paul Springett (PS), Richard Redman (RR), Susan Wales (SW), Linda Mumford (LM), Tone Higgins (AH), Trevor John (TJ), Anne Salkeld (AS), Graham Sharpless (GS), Louisa Hughes (LH), Felicity John (FJ)

Also present were David Grant and Jenny Hill.

Apologies for Absence: Amanda Macintosh (AM).

The minutes of meeting held on 23.11.2024 had been previously circulated and agreed as a true record, with 2 minor amendments – a typo and the confirmation of the small lottery licence.

Safeguarding: The second module of this will be covered at the next meeting. The Diocese is having a safeguarding audit in March, If anyone wishes to be part of this they should go to the Diocesan Website – although the time window for this is quite short.

Milborne Wick: AM provided a brief report of their wonderful carol service and subsequent social which was attended by around 50 people. Unfortunately, AM is unable to attend Saturday morning PCC meetings. **Action: NE** to see if AM has any exeat weekends coming up this year. PS explained that Milborne Wick finds it difficult to find their part of the parish share, so Stowell helps them out at the moment. Unfortunately, the amount to be found is to rise rapidly over the next few years.

Goathill: The formal declaration from the Registrar re: the amalgamation of the churches of Milborne Port and Goathill has not yet been received. On a happier note, 3 weddings have been booked for St Peters this year. **Harold minutes**

Deanery Synod: RSB reported that there has been a social occasion with the three parishes of Blackford, Compton Pauncefoot and Maperton to begin to foster relationships. A new rota has been proposed which will come into effect from April 1st. 2025. The services at Milborne Port will not alter. Charlton Horethorne will lose one service per month at 9.00am. The new parishes are being offered 2 monthly services at 9am and one at 10.30am. Easter Day will see a 9am Book of Common Prayer service at Blackford and a 10.30am at Milborne Port. There has been a suggestion that there should be a "Benefice Council" as well as the individual PCCs. LM commented that working together positively as a group of Christians should be an aspiration. Some people in these parishes would enjoy joining with other Christians. RSB would like to book the Kings Arms in Charlton Horethorne for a social event to happen after Easter to celebrate the new benefice. Whole benefice services where we would all come together will happen each 5th. Sunday in a month, and will be

organised to celebrate Christmas/Easter/Pentecost and Harvest. All services throughout the benefice will in pew news and on the website.

Minutes from the sub-committees:

The Magazine Committee: LM has distributed submission and distribution dates to the committee members. Distribution day remains the last Friday of the month (unless specified such as earlier at Christmas), and the submission deadline remains at the Saturday previous to the said Friday.

The Events Committee: The autumn quiz raised £911. The next quiz night will be on the 24th of May, and the Summer Fete is pencilled in for July 19th. Other fundraising ideas were discussed and will be followed up by committee members. There was a reminder that the church will run cream teas at the SOMP fete 7th. June. SW suggested a thankyou tea for the village groups taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival possibly on February 22nd.

The Worship Committee: A review of recent services and events was taken, and a summary of the December events and services given. It was agreed to keep the same format for the Lent Lunches as used last year in 2025. The Lent Course will run for 5 weeks on Mondays at 11am, from March 10th, and Compline from Friday March 7th. RSB will liaise with Rachel Willets on format and timings for a regular dementia service starting after Easter. The refurbished handbells have been taken up by about 20 children and an Easter Egg hunt was suggested for Easter Sunday. Rachel is still considering a singing from scratch event.

Finance: PS is deciding how he will present the financial accounts for the Annual Report so did not distribute any accounts on paper this time. In Summary: receipts are up by (round figures) £3000, but donations down by £4000. These figures do not contain money from fundraising but that has done well this year. PS pointed out that the law has changed, and every church needs to register as a charity. GS said he is already onto this as regards what needs to go on the website.

Current assets comprise approx. £208,000 bank accounts/deposits/investments; CBF 45,000; and property values separately St John's Cottage and Church House. There are some more immediate expenses likely.

Fabric: The boiler is a lot older than previously thought and the windows are in need of fixing – this is on top of the need to replace the roof before it collapses. Discussed at the last meeting was the need for a person to take on the overall management of the fundraising. One of the part time bell ringers, Christine Tebbit from Frith Farm in Stalbridge has experience of applying for funding and is willing to help. David Grant (parishioner) has also indicated he would be willing to assist and also indicated that the parish council would be willing to help. LH urged that our needs were voiced to the wider community, an independent "Friends of the Church" – because it is an historic building and community asset and needs to be passed on to the next generations in good order. LM and NE to liaise on wording for the Parish Magazine. Robert Hall has repaired the lantern and reinstalled in in December. FJ letter The post

will be repainted at a later date. In Church, the **Payaz Contactless Giving Station** has been set up by TJ.

Health and Safety: The roof alarms and the fire extinguishers have been checked and are in good working order. Further to an unfortunate incident before the carol service, steps have been taken to ensure the chiming mechanism cannot be operated from ground floor level while the treble bell is in the up position or is being rung. This has been repaired by Tony Thorp and Toby Doar at no cost.

Letters: The epiphany letter from The Archbishop of York was circulated with the minutes; also, the Diocesan letter regarding the updating of the electoral roll. A letter was received from Batten's solicitors regarding the estate of Anne Bawtree. She has very kindly left Milborne Port and Millborne Wick a joint sum of £500. FJ has sent a letter of acknowledgement and thanks to Robin Bawtree.

Rev Rona: RSB has been considering how we grow faith in the parishes and she wants people to join her in her projects.

- Setting up a toddler group which would allow RSB to be a Christian in the community. There would be 3 terms of 8 weeks and at least 3 people would be needed to run it. LH volunteered and also said she would ask outside the church community for help.
- A dementia service to be held on the 3rd Saturday afternoon of every month. There would be prayers, bible and singing. Needs a champion to host (food and drink to be provided in Church)
- "The Rest is Worship" – a course of rest, peace and space running during Lent – 2-3 leaders required for different days during the week.
- A plea for someone to write cards for anniversaries/baptisms/weddings/funerals – it was suggested that this is something the parish secretary, Helen might do?
- "Being With" appears to be the replacement for the Alpha course – more up-to-date and accessible. It began during lockdown at St Martins in the Fields and has continued to be very successful. 4 people are needed as hosts/story tellers/being there – training is not necessarily required.

AOB: GS updated the PCC on the work he has done on the website. Forms for the update of the electoral roll are on there and he will ensure the requirement to do this is put in the magazine for both February and March. Helen will also be asked to ensure it goes into Pew News. Helen will put out the forms to Milborne Port, Wick and Goathill.

FJ has sent out the first reminder to those who will be writing the various reports for the APCM in April. She will do it again at the beginning of February with deadline dates. The final report will be put on the website when it is ready – Helen will give the link to where it is. GS requested that he be given information about the parishes joining the benefice so he can include all the information on the benefice site.

The meeting ended at 12.20pm. with a prayer.